

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXV.....No. 361

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ROBERTS' THEATRE, 234 St. between 11th and 12th ays.—
RIP VAN WINKLE.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE SPECTACLE OF
THE BLACK OROCK.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway and 12th street.—
THE HEIR AT LAW.

LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, 729 Broadway.—LITTLE
JACK HENRI.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 8th av. and 23d st.—
LES BRIGANDS.

OLYMPIA THEATRE, Broadway.—THE PANTOMIME OF
WEE WILLIE WINKLE.

WOOD'S THEATRE, Broadway, corner 30th st.—Perform-
ances every afternoon and evening.

GLOBE THEATRE, 728 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAIN-
MENT, &c.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—
SARATOGA.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—NEW YORK BURLES-
QUE.—ROBERTS OF THE HEATH, &c.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PAKK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—
THE LOVE CHASE.—LOAN OF A LOVER.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—LA GRANDE
DUCHESSE.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—VARI-
ETY ENTERTAINMENT.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 314 Broadway.—COMIO VOCAL-
ISM, NEGRO ACT, &c.—JOLLY SANTA CLAUS.

SAN FRANCISCO MINISTREL HALL, 558 Broadway.—
NEGRO MINISTREL, FARGES, BURLESQUE, &c.

BRANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 234 St. between 6th
and 7th ays.—NEGRO MINISTREL, SCIENTIFICITY, &c.

APOLLO HALL, corner 25th street and Broadway.—
DR. COBBY'S DIORAMA OF PRIMA.

BROOKLYN OPERA HOUSE.—WOLFE, HUGHES &
WHITE'S MINISTREL.—CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME, &c.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—SCENES IN
THE KING, ACADEMY, &c. Matinee at 2.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 745 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

HARLEM MUSIC HALL.—KATHLEEN MARYWREN.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 45 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

New York, Tuesday, December 27, 1870.

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A RARE SIGHT.—The Christmas markets,

with their tons of juicy, uncooked meat.

GENERAL FRANK BLAIR, JR.—The Mobile

Register says no better man could be chosen

as successor to Judge Drake, late Senator from

Missouri, than General Frank Blair, Jr. Several

other journals are of the same way of thinking.

THE KING ELECT OF SPAIN was to have

taken his departure from Florence for Madrid

on Christmas morning. He had not set out

in the evening. Enjoying his festive dinner

at home? A good idea, particularly for a

foreign Prince when about to make his resi-

dence in Madrid. "No place like home."

THE SENATORIAL FIGHT IN ILLINOIS.—It is

reported that General Grant has written a let-

ter releasing the federal officers of restraint,

and allowing them to express their opinions

and preferences for Senatorial candidates in

Illinois. He washes his hands of any direct

action in behalf of any candidate; but it can-

not well be concealed that he prefers either

Dubois or Governor Palmer to General Logan.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS, our special

table telegram from London informs us, will

The Confusion in Europe—Prim, the General Mischief Maker.

If the millennium had passed we should be disposed to think St. John had General Prim in his prophetic vision when he said in the Apocalypse the Devil should be let loose for a while to deceive the nations, "Gog and Magog," to gather them together in battle. While the world beholds with horror the frightful war that this man's king-making intrigues in the case of the Prince of Hohenzollern and the Spanish throne brought about, similar king-making intrigues in another quarter threaten revolution in Spain again and more trouble for Europe. He aspires to be more than the Warwick of the nineteenth century. The news we are receiving from Spain shows that Prim's scheme to make the Duke of Aosta King is bitterly opposed by powerful factions and a large portion of the Spanish people. The Peninsula is in a revolutionary ferment again in consequence of this attempt to erect another monarchy in Spain. No doubt the amiable young Italian prince is as unobjectionable as any other monarchical puppet would be, though he is a foreigner; but the Spaniards do not want him for their master. Both the republican sentiment and Spanish pride are aroused at the attempt to foist a foreign youth upon them as their ruler. The popular demonstrations in Spain, at which the people stuck maccareni in their hats, were significant, and showed how the proud Spanish blood became inflamed at the thought of this alien and Italian being forced upon the throne that had been occupied by a long line of illustrious native princes. There is more trouble ahead, evidently, from this new king-making scheme of Prim.

Not only are the revolutionary elements of Spain thrown into a state of fermentation again by this monarchical intrigue, but Italy may be brought into trouble as well. The question of the Papacy begins to take an embarrassing shape, and the vast numbers of devoted Catholics and the Catholic priesthood, both in Spain and throughout the world, will look with no favor upon the son of Victor Emmanuel occupying the throne of the most Catholic country in Europe. Then, again, what does the rumored incipient hostility of Prussia to Italy mean? Bismarck begins to growl at Italy and the House of Savoy. Does this ambitious statesman look upon the strides of the House of Savoy to extended dominion over the Latin race with disfavor? Does he aspire to rule Continental Europe and to regulate the Papacy and the dynasties himself? There are some indications that the new German empire may assume protection over the Papacy, and it would not be surprising if Bismarck should wish to keep the Spanish throne question open a little longer so as to give another chance to the Hohenzollerns. A member of the Prussian royal family on the throne of Spain would prove a counterpoise to the ambition of the house of Savoy and tend to keep the Latin race of Southern Europe under Germanic restraint. There is evidently some significance in Bismarck's growl at Italy, and Victor Emmanuel and Prim may be laying the foundation of another war in this Aosta affair.

But with regard to our remark that Prim appears to be Satan let loose for the purpose of throwing the nations into war, it may be well to glance at the career of this mischief maker. One of his first movements as a revolutionist or agitator was during the Christina and Carlisle war. He was then on the side of Christina, the Regent Queen-mother. He was then about twenty-two years of age and had attained the rank of colonel. After the revolution which resulted in her flight and the elevation of Espartero to the dictatorship he joined the opposition or progressista party. Being accused of complicity with the insurrection of Saragossa, in 1842, he took refuge in France. He took the lead in another insurrection at Rens against Espartero, after he returned to Spain. When Espartero fell and the Queen-mother was restored he came into favor and was created a general and a count. Undertaking to suppress a revolt in Barcelona he used his force to keep Catalonia in insurrection for a year. He was disgraced for this and tried for high treason as an accomplice in the attempt to assassinate Narvaez. In 1853 he joined the Ottoman army in the Russo-Turkish war. Afterwards he became a Deputy in the Spanish Cortes. Then he commanded a division in the Spanish-Morocco war in 1859-60. In 1861 he was appointed to the chief command of the Spanish expedition against Mexico, which was intended to co-operate with the French and British forces. From some disagreement he withdrew the Spanish force to Cuba. Both he and the British left the Emperor Napoleon to carry out the scheme of squelching an American republic and erecting a monarchy on our border. All were influenced by the same motive, and Prim among the rest. It was a war against republicanism on the American Continent, and a blow aimed indirectly at this republic while it was in the agony of civil war. In 1866 Prim—the restless agitator and revolutionist—put himself at the head of another insurrectionary movement in Spain. This was soon suppressed. He made another similar abortive attempt in 1867. In 1868 he joined the revolutionists that deposed Isabella. Since that time he has taken the most prominent part in Spanish affairs. It has always been a mystery what the prolonged conference between Prim and that other arch intriguer, Napoleon, at Biarritz, was about. Looking at Prim's antecedents and character, as well as at those of Napoleon, there is little doubt that some scheme to disturb the world was discussed. Then we come down to the Hohenzollern business, which Prim concocted, and the terrible consequences the world has witnessed. Last, we have the intrigue to put an Italian prince on the Spanish throne against the will of the people, and as a consequence, the prospect of more revolution and bloodshed, and possibly of a more general war in Europe. May it not be said, then, that this arch agitator and monarchical revolutionist is Satan let loose to deceive the nations and to plunge them into war?

A SAD HOMESTEAD AT CHRISTMAS.—Mr. John Walter, Jr., son of the editor-in-chief of the London Times, was drowned yesterday by the breaking of the ice on which he was skating. A very sad accident, indeed; a most mournful visitation.

The Second Day of Christmas.

It is not often that Christmas is stretched out to so long a term as it has been this year. One day usually suffices for a full religious and secular celebration of the great festive event of Christendom, and the devout religious services of the clergy, the jollier merry-making of the laymen, the *Te Deum* of the cathedral organ and the dreadful clatter of the fan-tastics' horns are usually commingled together within brief limits of one happy day. But this year we have had a more generous libation of the festive season. We have had two days and a half of Christmas—for we must count Christmas Eve as a part of the grand occasion—just as they have three days of election in Georgia. We have had a Lenten and a carnival Christmas; only the Lent and carnival have changed places in this instance, and Lent has come first. One day of the festival has been devoted to the worship of the Deity whose birth gave it to us, the other to the creature rejoicings that the glad event always calls forth. We have had our religion and our rollicking separate, and the general verdict of tired humanity is that we would rather take them in the usual way hereafter. The occasion is so inlaid with a mosaic work of religion and rejoicing together that it seems like dissecting Christmas to set aside a day for each. Charity and Christianity and good cheer, all mixed together, make a good Christmas, and to take one on Sunday and the others on Monday is like the whiskey and sugar and lemon that only require mixing to make a good punch.

The day yesterday was devoted to the mad merriment of the fan-tastics, the matinees, the balls and the pleasure-taking world generally. The indispensable Christmas tree was set out with its wondrous fruits, the jolly Santa Claus was dashing from house to house all day with his marvellous cargo for good children, and the graceful skaters were gliding in their many-colored garbs over the frozen mirrors in the Park. Charity, that glory of New York, was busy in her noiseless way among the poor—at the overflowing dinner tables of her institutions, at the humble hearths of the tenement houses, among the shivering Arabs on the quiet streets—wherever want could be found there Charity came with her open hand. Church services, merry making, rejoicing, dancing, fashion and jollity are always "great" in New York on Christmas Day, but the greatest of these is charity. And so the second day of Christmas is ended, and the tired world of New York awaits with some apprehension the approach of that other festival, dear especially to New York, of the New Year.

Benedetti's Explanations.

THE HERALD of yesterday contained the explanations of Count Benedetti, the late Ambassador of France at the Court of King William. The explanations are full of interest. Some of the explanations are not revelations. It was well known that France was instrumental in putting an end to the war of 1866. Benedetti lays the blame of the war entirely on the French people. He denied that there was any insult either given or experienced at Ems. When the report got abroad to the effect that there was bad feeling between himself and King William no one was more surprised than the King himself. More than that, his mission to Ems was a complete success. The father of the Prince Hohenzollern wrote to the Cabinet at Madrid intimating that his son was no longer a candidate for the Spanish crown, and King William was specially desirous that it should be known that he acquiesced in the renunciation. But the demagogues of the Corps Legislatif must humble Prussia by exacting a promise that no prince of the house of Hohenzollern should for the future consent to mount the throne of Spain. King William would not yield; and Napoleon yielded to the mob. The result—behold it! As we have always said, France deserved punishment. Now that she has received it let us hope for an early peace.

FRENCH MILITARY HONOR AS VINDICATED AGAINST BISMARCK.

Count Bismarck's charges against the military honor of France, as set forth in his recent circular to the representatives of the North German Confederation serving at the seats of foreign governments, have touched the French nation to the very quick and in the keenest manner. The Prussian Premier, as was specially reported by cable telegram in the HERALD, alleged that French officers of rank—naming General Ducrot and others as of the number—had broken their parole of honor, passed into the French lines, taken out new commissions and fought against the Germans who had paroled them. Count Bismarck asked in conclusion, as will be remembered, "Can or will a nation which encourages and rewards such conduct observe the faith of a treaty?" To all this a French newspaper republican organ replies in the article which we republish after translation. The explanation is of a very spirited character there is no mincing of the words used in refutation, and the case of General Ducrot is individually touched and explained as being in strict accordance with the "code" both at and after Sedan.

A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE IN, just at this cold season, when we are suffering from a more than ordinary sharp "snap," is San Francisco. A despatch from there says that numbers of invalids are seeking its salubrious climate for the restoration of their health, and that strawberries, tomatoes, new potatoes, grapes, oranges and garden vegetables of all kinds are abundant in the market. Imagine strawberries and cream for a Christmas dinner! The climate of Southern California is so delicious that people of delicate constitutions are constantly repairing in that direction in preference to Florida, Cuba or the Bahamas, which used to be the popular resorts. Europeans will soon discover that there is no place in Southern Europe superior in climate for invalids to this portion of our Pacific coast in the winter season, and we should not wonder if in a few years the wine-bearing valleys of California were more frequented by this class than the present haunts in the south of France.

THE MOUNT CENIS TUNNEL work is so near to completion that the men who are working from opposite directions towards each other, can exchange greetings through the slight barrier of obstruction which still separates them. A *De Profundis* *Carmen* of modern progress.

Governor Holden's Impeachment—A Poor Bid for a General Amnesty.

THE House of Commons of North Carolina has impeached Governor Holden, and he is to be tried before the State Senate on charges and specifications of certain "high crimes and misdemeanors," in the usurpation and exercise of despotic powers dangerous to the liberties of the people. Governor Holden is a radical; the Legislature impeaching him is democratic. Last summer certain murders and other outrages committed upon citizens in the back counties of North Carolina obnoxious to the Ku Klux Klan resulted in such excitement and disorders that Governor Holden proclaimed the disturbed counties in a State of insurrection, and called out the militia to restore law and order. He also appealed directly to President Grant for assistance, and the President's sympathies and convictions being on the side of the Governor, certain United States troops, if we are not mistaken, were so placed in North Carolina as to be called into requisition, in the event of the failure of all other means to re-establish law and order in the alleged insurrectionary counties. The troubles in question, however, were, with much wrangling, reduced to a sort of armistice, and then being merged with other local and general issues into the State election, the result was a complete defeat of the Governor and his party, especially in the ultra Southern character and materials of the Legislature elected.

This Legislature strongly represents the sympathies and souvenirs, the elements and ideas of the "lost cause." Governor Holden, in his remorseless pursuit of the mysterious assassins of the Ku Klux Klan, and all parties declared or supposed to be affiliated with them, has brought upon himself these impeachment proceedings. The impeachers, as a beginning, have suspended him from the exercise of his official powers during his trial, which is decidedly worse than the treatment of President Johnson in his impeachment; and the general presumption is that for calling out the militia to suppress a constructive insurrection, and upon other charges of this sort, Governor Holden will be expelled from his office.

Here the question is suggested, what have these North Carolina democrats to gain by this extreme measure of party retaliation against Governor Holden? This very Legislature has just elected ex-Governor Vance to the United States Senate, a body which is invested with full power to judge and decide upon "the election and qualifications of its members." This body represents the party of Governor Holden. The Senator elected by the anti-Holden Legislature belongs to a class concerned in the late rebellion whose disabilities under the fourteenth amendment can be removed only by a two-thirds vote of each house of Congress. Is the violent Southern party spirit betrayed in this impeachment of Holden "a good move" in behalf of Senator Vance for this two-thirds vote in Congress? No; it is by no means a good move in this direction. Again, there is a general amnesty bill pending in Congress. Is this extreme measure of party revenge in North Carolina calculated to encourage either House of Congress in the passage of this Amnesty bill? No. On the other hand, we fear that by the election of Vance and the impeachment of Holden a general amnesty in Congress has been knocked in the head. We find, too, that General Grant, a man of very generous inclinations, thinks that it is too soon yet for a general amnesty; and in his late annual message he broadly hints at various Southern elections carried by means of violence and intimidation.

This North Carolina impeachment case, however, is a most discouraging illustration of the unrelenting partisan bitterness of the Southern elements concerned in the late rebellion. It appears that while asking every concession they have none to give; that while scolding and whining over every disability as a great wrong, they have no sooner the power to punish obnoxious radicals, "scalawags" and "carpet baggers," than they exercise their power to the fullest extent. All such manifestations of wrath and vengeance on the part of the Southern democracy are bad and full of mischief. They lead to the conclusion that the Southern people do not accept, but only submit for the time being to the laws of reconstruction, and that they are working and waiting for the opportunity to upset all these laws, and to wipe out the national debt, as the debt of an unconstitutional war upon the sovereign rights of the States. This is the political road pointed out by various Southern manifestations during the year, and especially by Governor Holden's impeachment, with Vance's election to the Senate. This policy of demanding everything and yielding nothing means anything but peace and harmony. It was, moreover, this Seymour democratic policy that swamped Seymour in 1868, but what it may do in 1870 we cannot tell.

THE CITY ON SKATES.—The ponds in and around the city are now in fine skating order. In the phraseology of the rink, "the ball is up." Many of the ponds were kaleidoscoped with gayly dressed performers on Sunday, youthful adventurers upon the virgin ice being of course most numerous. The severe cold snap of Sunday night, however, put the rinks in order for the opening of the carnival yesterday. We thus have a fair start for a good Christmas skating season. It is to be hoped that every one will be in fine spirits to enjoy this splendid hygienic amusement. A good season on the ice is better than an army of doctors, and worth more than fifty miles long of drug stores.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH MOBILE.—The Mobile Register strongly advocates the permanent establishment of a regular steam line between that city and New York. Steam communication between the two ports is at present very irregular, and a regularly established line, starting on advertised days, is a great desideratum. It is to be hoped that some of our enterprising shipping merchants will take the matter in hand—if they have not already done so—and supply our friends in Mobile with all the steam communication they desire. We understand that the subject is under advisement in a responsible quarter.

TOO MUCH CHRISTMAS DINNER was eaten by a poor fellow in Philadelphia on Sunday. His last mouthful of beef checked him to death.

A Nice Point on the Alabama Claims.

A correspondent, writing to us on Reverdy Johnson's letter to Mr. John A. Parker relative to the Alabama claims, suggests that the ex-Minister does not go far enough in his statement of the facts. For example, where Mr. Johnson says the underwriters have paid all the claims of the owners of vessels for losses sustained by the Alabama, amounting to the sum of \$12,649,000, our correspondent argues that this does not cover the entire loss. The extra insurance charged by the insurance companies upon all vessels in consequence of the terror inspired by the Alabama is not covered by the amount named above. This is a loss that fell generally upon insurers and the country, and is not estimated. Now suppose the insurance companies get back the twelve millions and upwards they have paid for losses by the Alabama, they will then be gainers to the amount of the extra insurance they charged on all vessels. In short, the destruction by the Alabama will prove to them a most profitable thing. The point our correspondent makes, then, is that if the insurance companies get back the money they have paid on the loss of vessels the insurers generally who paid an extra premium or rate of insurance ought to get back also the extra amount they paid to the companies. This is a nice point, and as Mr. Reverdy Johnson is an eminent lawyer and statesman perhaps he will throw some light upon it.

"A Cold Snap."

We have had, for eight or ten days, "a cold snap," covering, we calculate, more than four-fifths of the area of the United States, leaving Alaska out to itself in the cold. From our observations and recollections of years past, however, "a cold snap" at Christmas is no extraordinary thing, but is a visitation to be expected, as is, too, "a warm spell," with snow and rain and slush, about New Year. But why so? Briefly it is because the Earth, in its daily revolutions on its axis, and in its yearly circuit around the glorious Sun, comes about the 21st of December, to what we may call a career from the northward, like that of a ship tacking on a high wave. Hence these rough, cold winds from the North Pole about Christmas. Within eight or ten days, the Earth having settled upon her keel again, we have the reactionary winds from the South, and hence the warm spell about New Year, with its snow, sleet, thaw, rain and slush. The rule, we think, is established, and a failure is only an exception to the rule.

The Women at Loggerheads.

Miss Catharine Beecher and Mrs. Livermore, both women of strong minds, had a little tussle in Boston on the question of woman suffrage. They were both eloquent. They had each their strenuous supporters, but the genius of the Beechers was on the right side of the question. Her arguments were clearly to the point. What a woman can do to advance her position by obtaining the privilege of voting she can do as well now, by exercising her irresistible influence upon the men who have votes. Miss Beecher contended that women can get all they require by keeping in their proper sphere and using their power over men—voters and law-makers—almighty Joves as they are. The answering argument of the enthusiastic Mrs. Livermore was but the old, vague, wearisome story of woman's "wrongs" in the abstract, half of which are imaginary, and the other half of which are probably brought on by the restless and discontented of their sex, who can never be happy unless they are the heroines of some little domestic trouble, which they delight to bring before the public in some shape, sometimes in the lecture room and sometimes in the court room. The common sense view of this question of woman's right to suffrage is pretty fairly embodied in Miss Beecher's views—namely, that a woman to-day, in our community can obtain all the rights and privileges necessary for her comfort and the maintenance of her proper position in society without the exercise of the suffrage. Rely upon the chivalry of the men, who are invested with the power to make woman a queen among gods, and there will be no disappointment. They have crowned her already and they are loyal to their professions. This is the philosophy of Miss Beecher's argument. It is a new and a strong point in this much-vexed question of woman suffrage, and we commend it to the consideration of the dissatisfied males and females who are worrying the public with the incessant cry of woman's rights and woman's wrongs.

NILSSON IN CHICAGO—A SPLENDID OVATION TO HER.

The Chicago people do everything on a grand scale. Successful as Nilsson has been, and much as she has been honored in other parts of the country, the ovation to her at Chicago last Thursday eclipsed everything of the kind to her since she has been in the United States. There are a good many Swedes in Chicago, and they resolved to give their charming and popular countrywoman a grand reception, and to crown her with a beautiful gold wreath. The whole scene was exciting and enthusiastic. Both in the conception of it and carrying it out there was a vein of poetry and classic beauty that carries the mind back to the classic times of Greece when Sappho and other famous women were honored and crowned in a similar manner. Nilsson wins all hearts wherever she goes. She has learned to love America already, and it is not surprising that she has when such heartfelt honors are spontaneously accorded to her.

THE POPE AND HIS KIND FRIENDS.

In the days of his sore trouble, when his temporalities have been wrenched from him, and when sorrows unknown seem impending, the Holy Father is not wanting for friends. King William abounds with promises and generous offers. Francis Joseph is not forgetting him. Even the Queen and Prime Minister of Protestant England are sympathizing and generous. Fulda, or Malta, or Nice, or Elba, or Sicily, or Madeira might do very well for a Papal residence; but if the Holy Father is wise he will remain where he is. Let the friends of the Pope provide for his comfort in Rome.

THE MISSOURI SPLIT.—We publish to-day a very interesting exposition from Washington of the Missouri split in the republican party, showing how the Gratz Brown and Carl Schurz bolters killed the goose which laid their golden eggs.

Outstanding Liberty.

The recent contribution of fifty thousand dollars by William M. Tweed to the poor of the Seventh ward might have been all very well if there had not been so much parade and ostentation about it. The Scriptural adjuration, "Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth," has been signally disregarded in this case, and exposes the donor of the contribution to the imputation of having some hidden and selfish motive in making it. There are, no doubt, hundreds of private citizens of New York who have made as munificent donations to the poor and the world has never known a word of it. In the present instance the contribution, it appears, is to be placed in the hands of a committee, with Mr. Tweed himself as the honorary head thereof. Who is to know how, when and where the money is expended, or whether it is expended at all, or whether the bulk of it does not find its way among the fleeces of Mr. Tweed's myriads of "pet lambs?" Taken in a political point of view, the notoriety given to this affair will have the effect of causing the people to think that the charges of corruption against the Tammany ring are correct, and that this Tweed fifty thousand dollar gift enterprise is simply a salvo to cover numerous jobs and contracts and schemes for public plunder, for which Tammany has been repeatedly arraigned before the bar of public opinion. Instead of having a beneficial, it is more likely to have a damaging effect upon the political plans of Tammany. Will not people say, "Well, what of this fifty thousand dollar donation? Is it not only restoring to the people an atom, small as a single sand upon the seashore, of what is their own? Has not the donor given as much for a private stable as he has appropriated in this pompous way for the relief of the poor of the Seventh ward? Why, the price of one of his horse blankets would keep a whole family in the ward in provisions for a month."

But, whatever its political effect may be, it would have been much wiser for Mr. Tweed to have made his contribution quietly and unostentatiously, than to have had it emblazoned to the world in the glaring manner it has been.

Shopkeepers as Detectives.

Our local columns have recently contained accounts of the arrest of several respectable ladies on charges of shoplifting. In each case the charge has been dismissed by the sitting magistrate, and the respectability of the accused fully established. These arrests were made under a system now in vogue in some of our large stores of feeling clerks for detecting shoplifters. It is a poor system at best, for none but the most expert in the detective business should be employed in this delicate service. In the cases under consideration the regular detectives should have been sufficiently well acquainted with human nature to have discovered at once whether they had or had not innocent persons under arrest. It is no excuse to say that it is next to impossible to discern a respectable lady from an accomplished thief. In London and Paris the police are expected to know enough about their business not to make arrests upon frivolous charges when the evidence of criminality is manifestly wanting. Is it not somewhat singular that with all the vigilance exercised by these shopkeeping clerk-detectives not a single case of actual shoplifting was made out as having occurred upon the same premises during the days these respectable ladies were arrested and placed in humiliating confinement?

THE "CITY OF DISASTERS."

The late terrible catastrophe in Richmond calls to mind the burning of the theatre on the 26th of December, 1811, when seventy victims, including the Governor of Virginia, perished in the flames; the conflagration which laid waste so large a portion of the town in 1865, just before the end of the war; the fall of a chain bridge in 1869; the loss of fifty-six lives at the fall of a part of the Capitol, and the immense destruction of property by the floods during the present year. The heroic endurance of the people of Richmond under all their afflictions merits no less sympathy than admiration. That unfortunate city is but too well entitled to the appellation of the "City of Disasters." New York is aptly called the "City of Charities." It is true the sufferers in the present case may not be among the